

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY AND RETIREMENT SECURITY ACT OF 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 1, 2012

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1173) to repeal the CLASS program:

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Chair, I rise today in firm opposition to this legislation that would repeal the Community Living Assistance Services and Supports Act, the CLASS Act.

As part of the Affordable Care Act, the CLASS Act is our nation's first real attempt to provide voluntary, fiscally-responsible, long-term care for the more than 70 percent of Americans who will need such support at some point in their lifetimes.

As the Representative to thousands of seniors in Florida's 20th district, I know too well how hard our families strive to plan and pay for the long term care services that most of them so desperately need.

By repealing the CLASS Act, this Congress abandons millions of middle class seniors, Americans with disabilities, and all families struggling to provide long term care for loved ones.

Of course, we are willing to admit that this program isn't perfect. But that is no excuse for the Republicans' "repeal and abandon" approach to legislation—and our nation's seniors.

Rather than pull the rug out from under our seniors and loved ones—I urge my colleagues to work to fix this vital program.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF JOAN AND GEORGE KESSEL

HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 2, 2012

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Joan and George Kessel, two outstanding members of the South Florida community who have dedicated their lives to advancing the security of Israel, promoting Jewish values, and protecting the welfare of Jewish people across the globe.

Joan and George Kessel embody the spirit of adventure. They may spend a great deal of time in South Florida, but they truly are citizens of the world. While they have traveled the globe far and wide, it is their trips to Israel that have touched them most profoundly. During their many stays in Israel, Joan and George have learned firsthand the challenges faced by the Israeli people in a hostile, volatile region. These are the experiences they carry with them back to South Florida.

At home, the Kessels are known for their willingness to take on leadership roles in any endeavor that advances the security of Israel and strengthens the bond between our two nations. They generously support a wide range of Jewish organizations, yet their dedication to these causes extends far beyond philanthropy. By opening their home to visiting Israeli soldiers and dignitaries, they have fostered the kind of cultural exchange between Americans and Israelis that is the bedrock of the deep friendship between our two nations.

On January 8, 2012, Joan and George Kessel were honored by Friends of the Israel Defense Forces (FIDF) for their work on behalf of a safer and more secure Israel. I can think of no two individuals more deserving of this honor. I am humbled by their generosity and commitment, grateful for their friendship, and look forward to their continued leadership in the pro-Israel community for years to come.

HONORING MAYOR GERALD A. CALABRESE

HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 2, 2012

Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my dear friend and mentor, Mayor Gerald A. Calabrese of Cliffside Park, in honor of his 87th birthday. Mayor Calabrese is the longest-serving mayor in the state of New Jersey, having begun his 49th year in office in January.

After first being elected to the Cliffside Park Borough Council in 1955, Gerry was elected mayor in 1959, and has served continuously as the Borough's chief executive since his reelection in 1965. During Gerry's time as mayor, Cliffside Park has enjoyed unprecedented growth, largely thanks to his leadership. He is well-known for gaining many federal, state, and county grants to help his community. Highlights from his tenure include the building of Cliffside Park's current Borough Hall, the public library, and a senior citizen housing development, which was one of the first of its kind in New Jersey to be built using federal grants.

Moreover, Gerry has proven his strong leadership by finding other innovative ways to improve his community while saving the taxpayers money. Under his guidance, Cliffside Park is about to embark on a major redevelopment program by building a joint DPW facility with neighboring Fairview. Cliffside Park and Fairview are the first communities in the state to combine their DPW facilities. Not only was a new facility desperately needed, but by vacating the property the DPW currently sits on, the town made valuable land available for development which will now go on the tax rolls.

In addition to his public service in Cliffside Park, Gerry served in the Navy and is a member of the American Legion Post 126 as well

as the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the AmVets. He is also a former professional basketball player, having played for the Syracuse Nationals during the 1951 and 1952 seasons. Gerry was inducted into St. John's Athletic Hall of Fame for his years on the basketball team.

Mayor Gerald A. Calabrese is the pinnacle of integrity and effectiveness. It is no wonder that he received two standing ovations during his swearing-in ceremony in January of this year and has been called a "second father" and "iconic public servant" by so many respected public officials. Mayor Calabrese has been a role model for me, as he has been for so many others in New Jersey whom Gerry has helped during their careers.

Mr. Speaker, today I rise to celebrate the birthday of my constituent and dear friend, Mayor Gerald A. Calabrese. I join with the grateful residents of Cliffside Park in thanking him for his innumerable contributions to our community.

HONORING EVA MARIE BALDWIN WILBUR

HON. TOM MARINO

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 2, 2012

Mr. MARINO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of my constituent, Ms. Eva Marie Baldwin Wilbur on the occasion of her 95th birthday.

Eva Marie Baldwin was born February 19, 1917, the first of eight children to Earl and Frances Baldwin, in Middletown Township, Susquehanna County. Eva attended Rush Schools in Susquehanna County, where her father, Earl, drove the school wagon.

On August 10, 1935, Eva married Clayton Wilbur in Stevensville.

For forty-one years, Eva worked as a tax collector for Pike Township. She is an active parishioner of Rushville Church, and is a member of the Bradford County Republican Women. Even at the age of 95, Eva remains a part of her community, still hosting a Friday night card game for family and friends.

Eva is the proud mother of three children: Shirley, Edna, and Arlyn, grandmother of four, great-grandmother of six, and great-great-grandmother of three.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent, Ms. Eva Marie Baldwin Wilbur, on the occasion of her 95th birthday, and ask my colleagues to join me in praising her commitment to country, community, and family.

RECOGNIZING MELANIE DRESSEL

HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 2, 2012

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Melanie Dressel, President and

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